

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH BOOK COLLECTORS. AS ALSO OF SOME FOREIGN BOOK COLLECTORS. PART II. London: Bernard Quaritch.

In the second part of his "Book Collectors," which has just been published, Mr. Quaritch and his contributors treat of Mary Queen of Scots, Charles Spencer, third Earl of Sunderland; Sir John Thorold, Colonel Thomas Stanley, James Edwards, Thomas Edwards, John Bennet, Henry Perkins and Henry Huth. The method of publication adopted by Mr. Quaritch leaves always a pleasing uncertainty as to what is coming next, for the principle is that of voluntary contribution, the publisher undertaking the illustration and the general expenses of putting the work in type. It is to be an "alphabetical dictionary, printed in double columns, in royal octavo size—similar in outward form to Brunet's "Manuel du Libraire." As, says the publisher, "it would be impossible to gauge beforehand the extent of the dictionary or the number of names which it will include; and as a decision against putting any portion of the material into print before the completion of the manuscript would be virtually a selection of the Greek Kephalaia for the date of publication—it is proposed to print each article on a separate leaf as soon as it is ready. The need of supplementary alphabets, and the vexation of knowing that several letters of the alphabet remain imperfectly treated, will thus be obviated; and the work itself will be made capable of extension to the fullest degree in a single alphabet."

Under the superintendence of so thoroughly well-informed and experienced a bibliophile as Mr. Quaritch, all book-lovers may be very sure that the undertaking will be carried out in the most thorough and satisfactory manner. This great Dictionary of Book Collectors, in fact, will meet a need which all book-collectors must have felt at some time. From the plan of publication as indicated it is evident that no term can be fixed in advance for the termination of the work, nor can parts of the work be put into book form in advance of such termination. This is a drawback, however, which seems unavoidable, and it will no doubt be considered that it is more than compensated by the completeness of the undertaking which Mr. Quaritch's method guarantees.

LEADING WOMEN OF THE RESTORATION. WITH PORTRAITS. By Grace Johnston. London: Digby, Long & Co., 8vo. 22s.

Miss Johnston has written brief biographies of Lady Russell, Lady Warwick, Lady Maynard, Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Godolphin. The same thing has been done before by other hands, and even recently, and it might be thought perhaps at a first glance that the interest had been pretty well exhausted. But in truth there is also especially for women—a perennial fascination about the lives of these ladies who so graced a graceful period, holding up examples which too few of their contemporaries seem to have cared to follow. Miss Johnston has told the old stories simply and on the whole well, though not always so pell-mell as might be wished, and the record of these brave and godly dames will doubtless continue to attract readers even when the emotions which dominated their lives shall have ceased to excite a like sway, if such a time ever comes.

## LITERARY NOTES.

OCTAVE THALET'S "Stories of a Western Town"—with which the readers of "Scrivenor" have lately been regaled—will shortly be brought out in book form. The last of the group is to be published under the title of "Harry Lossing." In the next number of the magazine,

Dr. Sommer, the distinguished German philologist, whose edition of the "Mort d'Arthur" has taken so high a place, is now at work upon an edition of the "Recueil des Histoires de Troye." In his efforts to achieve a sound text he is copying it word by word from the original Caxton, in the possession of Lord Amherst. Philologists, by the way, know that an exact text is a rare bird to capture. Even when the transcriber's work is perfectly executed the printer steps in with his blunders, or with something worse, his would-be corrections of unfamiliar spelling. Even the text of the "Mort d'Arthur," though it took poor Dr. Sommer thirteen months to transcribe, it had some errors—due to the printer, we are sorry to say.

MR. THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH has again dropped into prose. He has written a dog story for the next "Century" and has called it "Goliath."

It is now thought that M. Renan's autobiography—with notes and elucidations by his widow—may soon be published.

"The Point of View," the proposed Philadelphia weekly, is soon to be brought before the public.

The propagation of polite learning and the diffusion of gaiety and wit are objects which are to be promoted, it is hoped, in a new English weekly, bearing the name of "The Houghnhum: A Journal for Yahoos." Some thing of its nature may be conjectured by the readers of "Gulliver."

The new volume of the Halkurt Society contains a reprint of two old MSS.: "The Visit of Master Thomas Dallam to the Sultan in 1569," and "The Story of a Sojourn at Constantinople by Dr. John Covel, Chaplain to the Embassy, 1670-1677."

A book on Maryland, "Early Maryland, Civil, Social and Ecclesiastical," by the Rev. Dr. Gambrill, of Baltimore, is announced by Whittaker. The same publisher is bringing out J. F. Rowbotham's "Private Life of the Great Composers."

Mr. Theodore Watts is a writer who has had considerable connection with poetry as the friend of a number of English poets, Browning, Rossetti, Tennyson and others. He has suffered several literary performances himself during his career, but none quite as refreshing as that which appears in a recent issue of the "Magazine of Art." Discussing the portraits of Tennyson, he remarks that each of the latter's friends "has an opportunity now of rendering a service to posterity such as perhaps no other effort of his life will ever enable him to render. Each friend can now faithfully depict in words the mental image of the corporeal part of the great poet by which his own brain is blessed and vexed. Out of the many portraits of Tennyson that exist, each friend can select one and say: 'This most resembles the mental image of Tennyson that belongs to me.' But this good office must be done now, it must be done while the image in each brain is in full intensity; for everything in some degree fades in this mirage; nothing keeps its brightness—no, not even memory's most brilliant picture of a dead friend's face." There seems to be a kind of reasonableness in this suggestion. Nevertheless, it is one of the most reckless in invitations to the numerous persons who were honored by an acquaintance, to say nothing of a friend-ship, with the Laureate which could well be imagined. That every one who ever met Tennyson may give the world an impression of the poet as they knew him (or fancied they knew him), is a consummation most devoutly to be wished but unconsummated. For only one writer in a hundred could give an impression that would be worth having, and the scores of mandarin sentimental portraits that might be produced can easily be spared. A face like Tennyson's is too noble to be circulated in the vignettes of Grab Street and its Mayfair purloins.

**TO HOLD A TELEGRAPH TOURNAMENT.**

An interesting contest between expert telegraph operators will be held on the evening of March 11 in Hardman Hall, Fifth-ave., and Nineteenth-st. It will be known as a "first telegraphic tournament." The objects of the contest, among other things, are to develop the maximum carrying capacity of an absolutely "clear" and approximately perfect conductor when manipulated by the fastest operators and most expert receivers; to ascertain how much "press" matter might in an emergency be crowded over such a conductor. Walter P. Phillips' code of abbreviations being used, and to test the comparative worth of the pen and the various typewriting machines for recording Morse signals. The committee in charge is composed of M. H. Toohey, R. L. De Alers, M. W. Russell, J. N. Johnston, H. F. Warren and Charles Orr.

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